

A FIREPLACE SCREEN

with the usual Hobbies panels of wood \$\frac{1}{4}\text{in.}\$ and \$\frac{1}{8}\text{in.}\$ thick with a fretsaw, and makes an attractive piece of work nearly 2ft. 6ins. tall. The patterns should be redrawn on to the wood in the usual way, cut out and cleaned. Note that the extension of certain parts of the design, where it has been impossible to get them full length on the sheet. Measure the distance between the arrowheads shown, and link up the ends of the patterns straight and true.

The construction can be in two complete sections, one the main panel portion, and the other two feet and legs holding them. The overlays of $\frac{1}{8}$ in wood

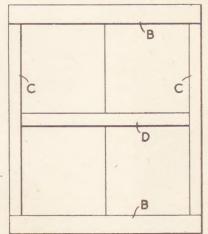


Fig. 1-The framework

are decorations for the front, and in the finished article should be stained to a darker shade than the main article. If, of course, you prefer to omit the fretted decorations, you can do so, and add a simple colour transfer to the centre of the flat panel.

This centre panel is completed on a framework as shown at Fig. 1. Two pieces 19ins. by 8ins. wide are glued flat together, and then a framework of battens (B), (C) and (D) put on the back, glued firmly with their edges flush. The side ones (C) come between the top and

bottom (B), and then the shorter one (D) goes across the middle to stiffen the whole thing.

Round the edge of this is put a flat strip composed of the frame (E) and (F). These \$\frac{3}{4}\$ in. wide pieces are glued with the back edge flush with the back of the frame, so there is about \$\frac{1}{2}\$ in. projection at the front. The corner ends are mitred carefully with plane or file, to make a good joint. A detail of one of the corners is given in Fig. 2.

When the framework is complete, you can add the handle along the top. The handle part (L) is cut from \$\frac{1}{8}\$ in. wood and glued on the \$\frac{1}{2}\$ in. piece (K). Note the position as indicated by the dotted lines. This allows an overlap at the bottom for screwing behind the frame, and also produces a double thickness for the hand hold. The shaded section of this is shown on the pattern, and a rounded effect is obtained by filing and glasspapering to make for comfort in handling. The completed handle stands with its upper portion (L) on the top edge of the frame, and is there glued in place and

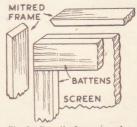


Fig. 2-Detail of construction

additional screws driven in from behind.

If you are polishing or staining the screen, the operation is best done now, before the overlays are put on, although their position should be marked carefully so they can be glued straight away afterwards.

The overlay (H) is at the bottom, with the small circular disc (I) put central about ¼in, above. The main overlay is fixed with the top 1¾ins. from the top of the main screen, and then the central disc (J) ¾in, below that overlay at the bottom. The position can be plainly seen in the picture of the finished

screen. The overlays when cleaned back and front, are stained darker as suggested, and before you glue them in place it will be necessary to scrape away any polished surface you may have made, in order to get the glue to hold.

The side uprights are alike, composed of the tall upright (N) glued on to the similar shaped one (M). In gluing, get the projecting tenon at the bottom in line with each other, so that the double thickness of it will pass later into the hole provided in the foot (P).

The foot itself, you will notice, is extended to 8ins. overall by 2ins. wide. A centre mortise is cut which should be tested first with the actual leg to ensure correct size and position. Above this bottom foot (P) is a smaller one (O) which is glued central in place and again seeing that the mortise cut in the centre is in line with the one beneath. This foot is $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long overall, and 2ins. wide, you will note. Under the completed foot are glued two end pieces (Q). Cut them $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. square from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. material, and glue under the main foot with $\frac{1}{4}$ in. projection on each of three sides.

The main upright previously made can now be glued firmly in by the mortise and tenon joint, making sure that a tight and lasting fit is obtained. Note that the smaller of the uprights is on the outside when you come to fix the panel between. The main firescreen panel previously made can now be glued to the uprights and screws put in for further strength. Then long screws must be used, with a hole pricked through first to ensure the screw itself driving into the thickness of the main wood.

The panel is fixed to the upright with the screw hole $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. from the top. A further $10\frac{1}{2}$ ins. below this is the second screw hole. Drill the holes carefully, using a flat-headed screw which is countersunk flush or below the surface of the upright. The screw head itself is covered by one of the circular discs (J) being glued over.

The whole screen is now completed, and the remaining woodwork is thoroughly cleaned, then stained and polished in the usual way.